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# The prepositional expression of cause in Greek non-literary papyri of the Imperial Period

*Expression de la cause prépositionnelle dans les papyrus grecs non littéraires de la période impériale*

*Η εμπρόθετη έκφραση της αιτίας σε ελληνικούς, μη λογοτεχνικούς παπύρους της αυτοκρατορικής εποχής*

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## Introduction

This study is exclusively based on a corpus of approximately 30 000 Greek non-literary papyri texts and ostraca of the period under consideration.

The cause as a prepositional function is expressed by genitive, dative, accusative, by prepositional phrases, by causal participle and by causal relative clause. Prepositions and cases are closely linked. “There are similarities between prepositions and cases. Ancient Greek prepositions were linked to nouns inflected for case.”<sup>1</sup> The Greek genitive, accusative and dative had a wide range of meanings including cause. Quite often, in the papyri texts, it is expressed in a prepositional manner. The prepositional cause of the papyri is expressed either with prepositions or improper prepositions. The prepositions appear in composition with verbs. They are also used as independent words, to connect nouns with other parts of the sentence. Besides these prepositions, there are certain adverbs used in the same way, which cannot be combined with verbs. They are called improper prepositions.<sup>2</sup> The paper is devoted to the prepositional formulation of cause with

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1. BORTONE, 2010, p. 110.

2. GOODWIN, 1930, § 1199, p. 254.

prepositions and then with the improper prepositions in the papyri texts of the Imperial period.

### The cause formulation with prepositions with two cases

The prepositions *διά*, *κατά* and *ὑπέρ* go with genitive and accusative.<sup>3</sup> At first, we will analyze examples of texts in which there are two-minded prepositions (*διά* plus accusative, *κατά* plus accusative and *ὑπέρ* plus genitive).

#### *διά + accusative*

The Greek accusative, in Classical times, was the most common case.<sup>4</sup> The preposition *διά*, which is often found in the papyri texts of the period under consideration, is sometimes written with accusative of noun, of adjective, with an infinitive with article,<sup>5</sup> with neutral of pronoun, interrogative, demonstrative to declare a cause.<sup>6</sup> As it is well known "*διά* plus accusative occurs in cause expressions and appears to be the most common means for expressing cause."<sup>7</sup>

In the following papyri, the preposition *διά* plus accusative may precede the identified type<sup>8</sup> or may follow it.<sup>9</sup> In P.Oxy. XII 1481 the preposition *διά* goes with noun accusative (*δι' ἀσθένειαν*) and specifies the previous verb *εἰμί*: P.Oxy. XII 1481, 3-4 (private letter, early third century) *διότι ἐν παρεμβολῇ ἡμι* (l. *εἰμι*) *καὶ / οὐ δι' ἀσθένει[ι]αν, ὥστε μὴ λοιποῦ* (l. *λυποῦ*). In P.Oxy. XIV 1666 (= P. Pap. I 149), 2-3, 14-15 (private letter, third century) at first, the prepositional phrase of cause *δι' ἣν αἰτίαν* defines the previous phrase *οἶομαι μεταδεδωκέναι*

3. KÜHNER & GERTH 1898-1904, § 433.4, p. 473.

4. DELAUNOIS, 1988, p. 37.

5. MAYSER, 1906-1970, II.1, p. 329-330.

6. HARRISON, 1858, p. 191, 208; MAYSER, 1906-1970, II 2, p. 426-427; KÜHNER & GERTH 1898-1904, 434 (p. 484); THOMSON, 1960, p. 93.

7. LURAGHI, 1989, p. 294.

8. Similarly, we observe in P.Oxy. XXII 2342 (BL VII 148), 25-27 (petition, 16 March, A.D. 102): *διδασθεῖσα / μὴ ἐπι[φ]έρειν διὰ τὸν ἔλεγχον ἔκρυψε / μεθοδ[ε]ύσασα τὸν στρατηγὸν σπουδῇν τινα. // P.Oxy. VI 903 (= CPJ III 457 d), 12-13, 20 (accusation against a husband, fourth century): ἀπίνηυσεν δὲ αὐτῷ Ζω[ί]λος ὅτι καὶ τὸν τρόφιμον αὐτοῦ ἐνέ/κλεισεν (l. ἐνέκλεισεν), καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ ὅτ[ι] διὰ τὸν τρόφιμόν σου ἦλθας ἢ διὰ τὴν / τοίαν ἦλθας λαλῆσαι ἐπάνω αὐτῆς.*

9. Similarly, we see in P.Oxy. IX 1223 (= Sel.Pap. I 164) (BL XI 148), 17-22 (private letter, A.D. 370): ἐὰν δὲ ἀμελήσης, ὁ οἶκος ἡμῶν περιστάσι (l. περιστάσει) / κοινωνεῖν μέλλει διὰ τὴν ἀπουσίαν τοῦ γεοῦχου ὑπὸ τοῦ / φορτικοῦ Ἀμμωνίου σπεκουλάτορος καὶ τοῦ ἐπαρχικοῦ.

and then, the qualifier διὰ ταύτην τὴν αἰτίαν precedes the verb οὐκ ἴσχυσα: οἶομαι τὸν ἀδελφὸν Σαραπάμμωνα μεταδεδωκέναι ὑμῖν (l. ὑμῖν) / δι' ἣν αἰτίαν κατήλθον εἰς Ἀλεξάνδρειαν ... κ[αὶ δ]ι[ὰ τ]αύτην τὴν αἰτίαν οὐκ εἴσχυσα (l. ἴσχυσα) πρὸς / ὑ[μ]ᾶς κ[α]ταντήσαι.

Often, the preposition διὰ is written with an infinitive with article and follows the defined term as it is shown in the following papyri.<sup>10</sup> In P.Oxy. XLII 3059 (letter of Didyme to Apollonius, second/third century) the preposition διὰ goes with an infinitive with article διὰ τὸ μὴ βλέπεσθαι, defines the previous participle μὴ βλέπουσαν: P.Oxy. XLII 3059, 3-4: γεινωσκέ (l. γίγνωσκε) με μὴ βλέπουσαν τὸν ἡλίον / διὰ τὸ μὴ βλέπεσθαί σε ὑπ' ἐμοῦ. Sometimes, however, the preposition διὰ with an infinitive with article may precede the identified verbal type, as in P.Oxy. VIII 1133, 11-13 (receipt, 24 March, A.D. 396) in which the prepositional phrases διὰ τὸ παραπεπτωκέναι and μὴ εὐρίσκεσθαι precede for emphasis the phrase δηλῶ ἄκυρον καὶ ἀνεπίφορον εἶναι: καὶ διὰ τὸ / παραπεπτοκενη (l. παραπεπτωκέναι) τὸ γρ[αμματε]ῖόν σου καὶ μὴ εὐρίσκεσθαι δηλῶ τούτω (l. τοῦτο) ἄκυρον κ[αὶ ἀνε]πίφ[ορο]ν εἶναι.

However, both syntactic structures<sup>11</sup> may appear in the same text as in P.Oxy. LI 3644, 15-21, 30 (letter of Heras<sup>12</sup> to Papontos, third century), in which the prepositional phrase διὰ τὸ μὴ ἀφεθῆναι defines the next verb ἐπληξε. Afterwards, the prepositional designation διὰ τὸ ἐπείγεσθαι follows the verb κατάσχεσις: ἐπυθώμην (l. ἐπυθόμην) / αὐτῆς πῶς ἐπλήγη καὶ ἔμα/θον ὑπὸ (l. ὑπὸ) πάντων ὧτει (l. ὧτι) διὰ τω (l. τὸ) / μὴ ἀπεθῆναι (l. ἀφεθῆναι) τὴν (l. τῇ) Σαβειναν (l. Σαβίναν) / ἄρθι (l. ἄρτι) ἃ εἶχε ἐντὸς αὐτῆς (l. αὐτῆς) ἢ κα/τίχε (κατεῖχε) κλειδεῖ (l. κλειδί) τῆς ἐξέδρας ἐπλη/ξε αὐτὴν ... ἀλ' (l. ἀλλ') ὦρα

10. Similarly, we observe in P.Oxy. XIV 1636 (= Sel.Pap. I 49), 26-30, 34-37 (contract of land, 27 Nov., A.D. 249): ὅπερ καὶ παρέξομαί σοι / [ἀ]πὸ τῶν ὑπὲρ αὐτ[ο]ῦ τελουμένων δημοσίω(ν)... μέχρι τοῦ / διελθ[όντος] ς (ἔτους) ... διὰ τὸ / τὰ ἀπὸ τοῦ ἐνεστῶ[τος] α (ἔτους) τούτου πρόσφορα εἶναι ... ἐὰν αἰρή δημοσιώσεις δι[ὰ] τοῦ καταλογίου, οὐ / προσδεόμενος μεταλήψεως μου διὰ τὸ ἐντεῦθεν ε[ἶ]δοκεῖν με τῇ ἐσομένῃ ὑπὸ σοῦ / δημοσιώσει.

11. We observe the same structure in P.Oxy. VII 1033 (= Chrest.Wilck. 476 = Sel. Pap. II 296), 9-14 (petition to riparii, 18 Oct., A.D. 392) καὶ μὴ ἐχόντων / ἡμῶν τὴν βοήθειαν εἴτ' οὖν τοὺς δημοσίους καὶ τοὺς ἐφορευτάς πολλαίς (l. πολλάκις) σχεδὸν εἶπεν (l. εἶπε<ί>ν) ψυχὴν ἐκινδυνεύσαμεν (l. ἐκινδυνεύσαμεν) διὰ τὸ / τοὺτους παρ' ἡμῶν ἀπεσπᾶσθαι μόνοι περιερχόμενοι εἰς / τὴν πόλιν καὶ κατοπεύοντες, διὰ τοῦτο ἑαυτοὺς ἀσφαλιζόμενοι (l. ἀσφαλιζόμενοι) / τούσδε τοὺς λιβέλλους ἐπιδίδομεν.

12. PREISIGKE, 1925, p. 124.

(l. ὅρα) μὴ κατάσχῃς Ἀρποχρᾶν διὰ τῷ (l. τὸ) ἐπίγεσσε (l. ἐπείγεσθαι) περὶ τον (l. τῶν) / ἐπιθηκῶν (l. ἐπιθηκῶν).

Noteworthy is the next example of P.Oxy. IX 1206 (= Sel.Pap. I 10 = Arangio-Ruiz, FIRA III 16), 10-16 (adoption, 27 March-25 Apr., A.D. 335), in which the preposition διὰ is composed with four infinitives with article a) διὰ τὸ εἶναι which refers to the previous phrase ἀλώσασθαι οὔτε εἰς δουλαγωγίαν ἄγειν b) διὰ τὸ ἐκδεδωκέναι which defines the previous infinitive ἀποσπᾶν c) διὰ τὸ συμπεπεῖσθαι and d) διὰ τὸ συντεθεῖσθαι which specifies the previous infinitive παραβαίνειν: καὶ οὐκ ἐξέστε (l. ἐξέσται) μοι τοῦτον ἀλώσασθαι οὔτε εἰς / δουλαγωγίαν (l. δουλαγωγίαν) ἄγειν διὰ τὸ εὐγενῆ αὐτὸν εἶν[α]ι κ[αί] ἐξ εὐγενῶν / γονέων ἐλευθέρων, ὥσπερ οὐδὲ καὶ ἡμί[ν] τῷ τ]ε Ἡρακλείῳ καὶ / τῇ γυνεὶ (l. γυναικί) Εἰσαριῇ (l. Εἰσαρίῳ) ἐξέστε (l. ἐξέσται) τὸν παῖδα ἀποσπᾶν ἀπ[ὸ] σο]ῦ τοῦ Ὀρίωνος διὰ τὸ ἀπαξ ἀπλῶς εἰς ὑιοθεσίαν (l. υἰοθεσίαν) ἐκδεδωκέναι [σοι α]ὐτόν, ὁῦδ' αὖ / μετὰ ταῦτα ἐ[ξέστ]ε (l. ἐξέσται) τινὶ παραβένειν (l. παραβαίνειν) τὰ ἐνγε[γ]ραμμένα διὰ / τὸ ἐπὶ τούτοις συνεπείσθαι (l. συμπεπεῖσθαι) καὶ συντετίσθαι (l. συντεθεῖσθαι).

In the following texts, the preposition διὰ is written with the neutral pronoun, demonstrative, interrogative or personal. The prepositional phrase either follows<sup>13</sup> or precedes<sup>14</sup> or is placed between the specified phrase. In the following BGU III 923, the preposition διὰ is written with an accusative of neutral interrogative pronoun, it is placed at the beginning of the sentence and specifies the verb οὐκ ἤλθε: BGU III 923, 19-20 (private letter, first/second century) διὰ τί δὲ / κατὰ τὸ ἔθος ἐλθοῦσα οὐκ ἤλθε εἰς οἶκον. In P.Oxy. XVII 2111 the prepositional designation διὰ τοῦτο is placed between the specified phrase ἀκυροῦν προσήκει: P.Oxy. XVII 2111, 4-5 (judicial proceedings, c. A.D. 135): οὐ πάντως δὲ τὸ δάνειον ἀκυροῦν διὰ τοῦτο / [προσήκει. In SB XVI 12556 (= BGU IV 1042 = Symposion p. 330), 7-11 (letter of Iulius Agrippinus to his mother Herais<sup>15</sup> concerning the process of Drusilla, second century) we observe

13. We notice the same construction in P.Oxy. IX 1219, 9-11 (letter of Aristandrus, third century): καὶ γὰρ σὺ αὐτὸν φιλεῖς καὶ δι' αὐ/τόν καὶ διὰ τὴν μνήμην τ[ο]ῦ πα/τρός αὐτοῦ.

14. We see a similar structure in P.Oxy. XXIV 2407, 44-45 (proceedings of a public meeting, late third century): διὰ τί γὰρ ἔκ'τοτε [τοῦ]το [οὐ]κ ἐγένε[τ]ο / [μέχρι το]ῦ δεῦρο. In P.Oxy. VI 903 (= CPJ III 457 d), 12-13, 19-21 (accusation against a husband, fourth century), the prepositional phrase διὰ τί precedes the verb: ἐποίησεν / τὰς ἐξω θύρας αὐτοῦ ἐνκλισθῆναι (l. ἐγκλεισθῆναι) ἐπάνω μου λέγων ὅτι διὰ τί ἀπῆλ/θας εἰς τὸ κυριακόν.

15. PREISIGKE, 1925, p. 122.

the qualifier δι' ἐμὲ which defines the following verb κατέχω: διὸ γράφω σοι ἵν' / [ε]ἰδῇ[ς.] πρὸ πάντων τὰ ἔργα αὐτοῦ / Ἰουλι[α]γοῦ γ[.] νέσθω ἄχρι τοῦ πα/ραθ[.]τα ὅτι δι' ἐμὲ ἐνθάδε αὐ/τὸν κατέχω.

In P.Oxy. LV 3816 (letter of Ptoleminus to Sinthonis, third/fourth century), the prepositional phrase of cause διὰ τοῦτο is placed at the beginning of the period, emphasizing the adverbial function of cause<sup>16</sup> of the verb οὐκ' ἐδυνήθην: P.Oxy. LV 3816, 8-9 (third/fourth century.): διὰ τοῦτο οὐκ' ἐδυνήθην λαλήσαι αὐτῷ.

### κατά + *accusative*

Κατά plus accusative is used to declare the motive of an action.<sup>17</sup> The connection of cause which is prepositionally declared is also found in the following papyri of the third and fourth centuries, which deliver to us texts of minutes: P.Oxy. XXIV 2407, 40 (memoranda of proceedings of a public meeting, late third century), the prepositional phrase κατὰ τί defines the verb συνήδρευσαν: κατὰ τί γὰρ ὅλοι ο[ὗ] συνήδρευσαν. In P.Oxy. XVII 2110 (= Sel.Pap. II 240), 5 (proceedings of the senate, 6 Oct., A.D. 370), the preposition κατὰ is composed with accusative of noun (κατ' ἄγνοιαν), specifies the verb ἐχειροτόνησεν: ἴσως κατ' ἄγνοιαν ὁ πρόεδρος ἐχειροτόνησέν (l. ἐχειροτόνησέν) με.

### ὕπέρ + *genitive*

Ὑπέρ plus genitive has the signification of "because of, by reason of".<sup>18</sup> In P.Oxy. XII 1490, 2-4 (letter of Heraclides to an official, c. A.D. 320), the qualifier ὑπὲρ τῶν ἐτῶν defines the infinitive γενέσθαι: Δημήτριος ὁ γνωστήρ ἡξίωσέν με λέγειν (l. λέγειν) σοι / ὥστε αὐτὸν ἄλυπον γενέσθαι ὑπὲρ τῶν προτέρων ἐτῶν.

16. Similarly we observe in P.Oxy. XXXVI 2784 4-6 (private letter, third century): διὰ γὰρ τοῦτο σήμερον / οὐδὲ τὰ κτήνη ἀνέπεμψα προσδο/κῶν χόρτον αὐτοῖς ἐμβαλέσθαι. // BGU III 935 (BL VII 935) (petition, third century): διὰ ταῦτα ἵκετέομεν. // P.Oxy. LVI 3858, 7-8 (letter of Bares to Diogenes, fourth century): δι' αὐτὸ τοῦτο ἔγραψά σοι. // P.Oxy. XIV 1676 (= Sel.Pap. I 151), 16-17 (letter of Flavius Herculanus to Arlonarion, c. A.D. 324): διὰ τοῦτο ὑπερη/φάνηκας ἡμᾶς. // P.Oxy. XII 1428, 11-13 (official letter, fourth century): διὰ / [δὲ] τοῦτο ἀπέστειλα (l. ἀπέστειλα) τὸν προειρημένον ὀφφικιά/[λιο]ν.

17. HARRISON, 1858, pp. 337-338; KÜHNER & GERTH 1898-1904, § 433.4.b3 (p. 478); SMYTH, 1956, § 1690.2 (p. 380).

18. HARRISON, 1858, p. 459; KÜHNER & GERTH 1898-1904, § 435.I.2 (p. 486); SMYTH, 1956, § 1697.1 (p. 386).

### The cause formulation with prepositions with three cases

#### *ἐπί + dative*<sup>19</sup>

The preposition ἐπί is composed with genitive, dative and accusative case.<sup>20</sup> The preposition ἐπί plus accusative indicates a cause especially close to verbs or expressions of emotion, such as: συγχαίρων, εὐχαριστεῖν, ἡσθῆναι.<sup>21</sup> Ἐπί is sometimes used to declare the ground or reason of an action.<sup>22</sup> To declare the cause in the papyri of the second up to the fourth century the prepositional phrase ἐπί plus dative is preferred. In P.Oxy. XXII 2342, 3-7 (petition, A.D. 16 March, 102), the prepositional phrase ἐπί καταγνώσει defines the preceding participle ἀποκηρύζας: τῶ[ι] β (ἔτει) Τραιανοῦ Καίσαρος / τοῦ κυρίου Πασίων Σαραπίωνος κοινωνός / καὶ δανειστής ὧν τελευτήσας ἐν Ἀλεξανδρείᾳ / ἀποκηρύζας τὰ τέκνα ἐπί καταγνώσει διάδοχον ἔσχε τὴν γυναῖκα Βερενείκην. In P.Oxy. LIX 3992, 22-26 (letter of Aelius Theon to Herminus, second century) the qualifier ἐπί αἰρέσει specifies the verb μεταδώσει: ἐπί / ποῖαι αἰρέσει μεταδώσει σοι / καὶ ἡ ἀδελφή μου καὶ Διονύσιος / ὁ νομογράφος καὶ Πτολεμαῖος ὁ μελλογυμνασάρχος. In BGU IV 1080 (= Chrest.Wilck. 478 = Hengstl, Griechische Papyri 75), 2-4 (private letter, third century), the prepositional phrase ἐπί συμβιώσει defines the participle of emotion συγχαίρων: ἀσπάζομαι σε συγχαίρων / ἐπί τῇ ὑπαρχθείσῃ σοι ἀγαθῇ [ἐ] σευβεί (l. εὐσεβεῖ) καὶ εὐτυχῇ (l. εὐτυχεῖ) [σ]υμβιώσει (l. συμβιώσει).

In papyri texts of the third century the preposition ἐπί goes with dative of demonstrative pronoun, infinitive with article or noun. It usually identifies a previous verbal form of emotion. In P.Oxy. XXXI 2610 (= Pap.Agon. 5), 2-3 (unknown text type, late third century), the preposition ἐπί plus dative of demonstrative pronoun (ἐπὶ τούτοις) specifies the previous infinitive εὐχαριστεῖν: εὐχαριστεῖν δὲ ἐπὶ τούτοις βουλόμενος, ὅποσα εἶχετε] / [ἐξ ἀρχῆς ὑπὸ τῶν] πρὸ ἐμοῦ αὐτοκρ[ατόρων δεδομένα ὑμῖν δίκαια καὶ φιλόανθρωπα, ταῦτα καὶ αὐτὸς φυλάττω. In P.Oxy. XXVII 2476 (BL VIII 258-259) (= Pap.Agon. 3 = New documents illustrating early christianity 9 p. 67-68 n. 23), 7-10 (private letter, 26 Jul., A.D. 288), the prepositional phrases ἐπὶ τῷ περιεληλυθῆναι καὶ ποιῆσαι specify the previous infinitive of emotion ἡσθῆναι. Additionally, the prepositional

19. KÜHNER & GERTH, 1898-1904, § 438 II.3 (p. 500-503); SMYTH, 1956, § 1689.2 (p. 378-379).

20. MAYSER, 1906-1970, II.2 p. 462.

21. KÜHNER & GERTH, 1898-1904, § 438 II.3d, p. 502.

22. HARRISON, 1858, 261, p. 286-287.



phrase ἐπὶ τούτοις refers to the previous infinitive εὐχαριστεῖν: ἦν εἰλικὸς ὑμᾶς τοὺς τὴν ἱερὰν / σύννο[δον νέμοντας ἡσθῆναι ἐπὶ τῷ εἰς ἐμὲ περιεληλυθέ] ναι τὴν τῶν ὅλων κηδεμονίαν καὶ βασ[ιλείαν <καὶ> διὰ ψηφίσματος φα] νερὰν ποιῆσαι τὴν γνώμην [ἦν ἔχετε πρὸς ἡμᾶς εὐχαριστεῖν δ' ἐπὶ τούτοις βουλό]μενος [ό]π[ό]σα / εἵχετα[ι] (l. εἵχετε) ἐξ ἀρ[χ]ῆς ὑπὸ τῶν [πρὸ ἐμοῦ αὐτοκρατόρων] δεδομένα ὑμεῖν (l. ὑμῖν) δίκαια καὶ [φιλόανθρωπα ταῦτα καὶ αὐτὸς φυλάττω προσαύξειν ἐθέλω]ν.

### Improper prepositions

#### ἐνεκα, ἐνεκεν + *genitive declare purpose and cause*<sup>23</sup>

We observe the prepositions ἐνεκα, ἐνεκεν in papyri texts from the second century until the fourth century. The commonest meaning of ἐνεκα plus genitive is cause.<sup>24</sup> The prepositions ἐνεκα, ἐνεκεν go with genitive of personal or relative pronoun and noun. We often see anastrophe of preposition.

In P.Oxy. LV 3810, 7-8 (letter of Callias to Cyrilla, second/third century), there is an anastrophe of preposition, the preposition ἐνεκα is composed with genitive of noun (ἐνεκα ἵππου), specifying the verb πέπομφε: πεπομφι (l. πέπομφε) γάρ με ὁ βασιλικὸς / εἰς Ἀθρῖβειν ἐνεκα ἵππου. In P.Oxy. X 1293, 16-17 (letter of Theon, 24 Jul., A.D. 118-138), the preposition ἐνεκα goes with genitive of personal pronoun and noun or adjective. The two prepositional phrases ἐνεκα ἡμῶν, ἐνεκα τῶν καμηλιτῶν, are connected in an intensifying and contrasting manner (οὐχ - ἀλλὰ), define the verb ποιῶ: τοῦτο οὐχ ἐνεκα ἡμῶν / ποιῶ ἀλλὰ ἐνεκα τῶν καμηλιτῶν. In P.Oxy. XVIII 2182 (BL VIII 254), 34-35 (letter of a strategus, 19 Apr., A.D. 165) from Ptolemais Euergetis (Arsinoites), there is an anastrophe of preposition and the preposition ἐνεκεν which takes the genitive of relative pronoun (ὧν ἐνεκεν) defines the verb ἐπεμψα: ὧν ἐνεκε / ἐπεμψα ἐξ αὐτῶν πρὸς σε. In P.Oxy. XX 2267, 5-8 (petition to authorities, A.D. 360), there is also an anastrophe of preposition in the prepositional phrases φιλοπραγματείας ἐνεκα καὶ αἰσχροκερδίας, which specify the participle γενομένη: ἡ Διοδότου δὲ / τοῦ γενομένου καθολικοῦ τῶν δεσποτικῶν πραγμάτων γενομένη σκευωρία φιλοπραγματίας (l. -φιλοπραγματείας) ἐνεκα / ἰδίας ἐαυτοῦ καὶ ἐσχροκερδίας (l. αἰσχροκερδίας) δηλοῦντος παρ' ἐμοῦ εἰσμου ἐργάσασθαι τοιαύτη γεγένηται.

23. SMYTH, 1956, § 1700, p. 388.

24. BORTONE, 2010, p. 119.



**χάριν + *genitive***<sup>25</sup>

In P.Oxy. XXII 2342 (petition to authorities, second century) we also observe an anastrophe of preposition. The preposition χάριν composed with the pronoun ὧν precedes the participle of emotion ἀδικοῦμενος: P.Oxy. XXII 2342 (BL VII 148), 25-28 (16 March, A.D. 102): διδαχθεῖσα / μὴ ἐπι[φ]έρειν διὰ τὸν ἔλεγχον ἔκρυψε / μεθοδ[ε]ύσασα τὸν στρατηγὸν σπουδῇν τινα / ὧν χάριν ἀδικούμε (l. ἀδικούμε<νος>) ἐπὶ σε [κατ]αφεύγω. In P.Oxy. X 1296 (= Sel.Pap. I 137), 5-7 (letter of Dios, third century), the preposition χάριν with genitive of noun specifies the verb ἀμερίμνει: ἀμερίμνη (l. ἀμερίμνει) οὖν, πάτερ, χάριν τῶν μαθημάτων / ἡμῶν.

**Conclusion**

In the documents of Imperial era, prepositional phrases of cause are often found in private letters and in petitions to the authorities. They are also attested in other types of documents, such as contracts, adoption documents, receipts, complaints, judicial proceedings, memoranda, minutes of proceedings of a public meeting. In most examples, the prepositional phrases are with articles. They usually follow the specified terms. In a few examples they precede the terms to which they refer for emphasis. Prepositional qualifiers of cause are mostly attested in the second, third and fourth centuries A.D.

Higher incidence is shown by the preposition διὰ plus accusative case and ἐπὶ plus dative. The use of the prepositional phrases κατὰ plus accusative, ὑπέρ plus genitive, ἔνεκα (ἔνεκεν) plus genitive and χάριν plus genitive is limited in papyri texts of the era under consideration. In some examples, there may be a verbal form of emotion, denoting the causal relationship. The cause in the Imperial Period as well as in the early Arabic Period is mainly expressed in documentary papyri by subordinate causal clauses.

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**Abstract:** This paper deals with the statement of cause in Greek documentary papyri of the Imperial Period. It studies the frequency of occurrence of the adverbial designations, the detection of their position within the clauses and the identification of the terms they define in Greek non-literary papyri from 31 B.C. until 4<sup>th</sup> century. The examples come from a body of approximately 30 000 Greek non-literary papyri texts and ostraca. The search of the material was based on the online database Duke Databank of Documentary Papyri (DDbDP), which includes all the documentary papyri. In order to avoid possible mistakes in electronic publications, the papyri texts were also checked by the printed volumes of texts.

**Keywords:** Greek non-literary papyri, prepositions διά, κατά, ὑπέρ, ἐπί, ἔνεκα (ἔνεκεν), χάριν.

*Résumé: cet article traite de la locution prépositive de cause, présente dans les papyrus grecs de l'ère impériale. Le texte étudie la fréquence d'apparition des déterminants adverbiaux, relève leur place dans les phrases et reconnaît des termes qu'elles définissent dans les papyrus grecs non littéraires à partir de 31 av. J.-C. jusqu'au IV<sup>e</sup> siècle apr. J.-C. Les exemples proviennent d'un corpus d'environ 30 000 papyrus et ostracons grecs non littéraires. La recherche du matériel a été basée sur la base de données en ligne Duke Databank of Documentary Papyri (DDbDP), qui comprend tous les documents papyrus. Afin d'éviter d'éventuelles erreurs dans les publications électroniques, les textes papyrus ont également été révisés à l'aide de volumes déjà édités.*

*Mots-clefs: papyrus grecs, prépositions διά, κατά, ὑπέρ, ἐπί, ἔνεκα (ἔνεκεν), χάριν*

*Περίληψη: Το άρθρο ασχολείται με την εμπρόθετη δήλωση της αιτίας στα ελληνικά παπυρικά έγγραφα της αυτοκρατορική εποχής. Αυτό το κείμενο αποτελεί μια απόπειρα να μελετήσει την συχνότητα εμφάνισης των επιρρηματικών προσδιορισμών, την ανίχνευση της θέσης τους μέσα στις προτάσεις και την αναγνώριση των όρων που προσδιορίζουν στους ελληνικούς μη λογοτεχνικούς παπύρους από το 31 π.Χ. ως τον 4<sup>ο</sup> αι. μ.Χ. Τα παραδείγματα προέρχονται από ένα σώμα περίπου 30.000 ελληνικών μη λογοτεχνικών*

παπίρων και οστράκων. Η αναζήτηση του υλικού στηρίχθηκε στη διαδικτυακή βάση δεδομένων *Duke Databank of Documentary Papyri (DDbDP)*, η οποία περιλαμβάνει όλα τα παπυρικά έγγραφα. Για να αποφευχθούν πιθανά λάθη των ηλεκτρονικών εκδόσεων, τα παπυρικά κείμενα ελέγχθηκαν και από τους έντυπους εκδομένους τόμους κειμένων.

Λέξεις-κλειδιά: ελληνικοί μη λογοτεχνικοί πάπυροι, προθέσεις διά, κατά, υπέρ, επί, ἔνεκα (ἔνεκεν), χάριν

*Anahtar kelimeler:* Yunan papirisi, διά, κατά, υπέρ, επί, ἔνεκα (ἔνεκεν), χάριν

Ключни зборови: грчки папири, предлози, διά, κατά, υπέρ, επί, ἔνεκα (ἔνεκεν), χάριν